(11) **EP 1 256 890 A3** 

(12)

### **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3: 12.02.2003 Bulletin 2003/07

(51) Int Cl.7: **G06F 17/60**, G06F 17/30

(43) Date of publication A2: 13.11.2002 Bulletin 2002/46

(21) Application number: 02000870.2

(22) Date of filing: 15.01.2002

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU

MC NL PT SE TR

Designated Extension States:

Designated Extension States: **AL LT LV MK RO SI** 

(30) Priority: **16.01.2001 US 262024** 

(71) Applicant: Outlooksoft Corporation Stamford, Connecticut 06905 (US)

(72) Inventor: Voshell, Perlie
Huntington, Connecticut 06484 (US)

(74) Representative: Gaucherand, Michel IXAS Conseil
15, Rue Emile Zola
69002 Lyon Cédex (FR)

#### (54) Systems and methods providing dynamic spreadsheet functionality

(57) An advantageous system and method are provided for supporting and/or enabling the creation of dynamic reports and/or data presentation(s) in connection with a spreadsheet-based application or program. The disclosed system and method offer a full complement of spreadsheet-based formatting and calculation capabilities. In addition, the system and method of the present disclosure may be used in conjunction with and/or incorporated as part of spreadsheet-based application(s)

and/or program(s) found on stand-alone clients and/or networked clients. The disclosed system and method generally include an electronic spreadsheet having a plurality of cells that are arrayed in a defined number of columns and rows, a database in communication with the electronic spreadsheet, and an expansion formula that functions to control retrieval of data from the database and automatically varies/expands at least one of the defined number of columns and rows to accommodate the data retrieval.

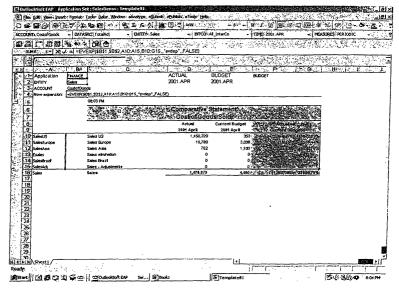


FIG. 1



# **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number EP 02 00 0870

	DOCUMENTS CONSID	ERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category	Citation of document with i of relevant passa	ndication, where appropriate, ages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)		
X	Add-in User's Guide INTERNET ARTICLE. H HYPERION SOLUTIONS 2000, XP002224232 Sunnyvale, CA Retrieved from the <url:http: www.es<br="">se/essbase_60/Docs, [retrieved on 2002- part of Chapter 2: Essbase Tutorial</url:http:>	IYPERION ESSBASE. CORPORATION, [Online]  Internet: Sbase.com/techdocs/essba (PDF/essexcel.pdf> -12-09] A Basic Hyperion An Adavanced Hyperion 2-91 *	1-24	G06F17/60 G06F17/30		
X	March 1999 (1999-03 Retrieved from the <url:http: www.kle<br="">ectives.pdf&gt; [retri</url:http:>	APPLIX, INC., [Online] B), XP002224231 Internet: esse.de/res/pdf_tmlpersp eved on 2002-12-09] Dlätter für Datenanalyse	1-24	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.7) G06F		
X	"Getting Started w Microsoft Excel" INTERNET ARTICLE. O [Online] 1999, XP00 Retrieved from the <url:http: www.gro<br="">p_GS.PDF&gt; [retrieve * the whole documen</url:http:>	DLAP@WORK INC., D2224233 Internet: Dovemarketing.ca/pdf/Simed on 2002-12-09]	1-24			
	The present search report has i	peen drawn up for all claims				
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner		
	MUNICH	9 December 2002	San	andrés Ledesma, J		
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS  T: th  E: e  X: particularly relevant if taken alone  Y: particularly relevant if combined with another  document of the same category  A: technological background  O: non-written disclosure  8: m		E : earlier patent doou after the filing date ner D : document cited in L : document cited for	: theory or principle underlying the invention : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filling date ): document cited in the application : document cited for other reasons  k: member of the same patent family, corresponding			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



## **EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

**Application Number** EP 02 00 0870

Category	Citation of document with indication of relevant passages	on, where appropriate,	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CL7)	
Х	US 5 359 724 A (EARLE 1 25 October 1994 (1994-1 * the whole document *		1-24	AT LOATION (III.SE.)	
Α	S 5 933 830 A (WILLIAMS NEAL WESLEY) August 1999 (1999-08-03) the whole document *		9		
Α	US 6 055 548 A (WILLIAM ET AL) 25 April 2000 (2 * the whole document *		13		
A	EP 0 997 834 A (HYPERIO 3 May 2000 (2000-05-03) * the whole document *		1-24		
Α	SHIENA M: "OulookSoft Collaborative Portal for Budgeting" INTERNET ARTICLE. THE AIMPACT REPORT, [Online 5 August 2000 (2000-08-Retrieved from the Inte <url:http: 0s_aberdeen.pdf="" 2834="" http:="" web.archive="" www.outlooks=""> [retrieved on 2002-12-6* the whole document *</url:http:>	or Enterprise  ABERDEEN GROUP  -05), XP002224236  ernet: e.org/web/2002120907 csoft.com/whitepaper	1-24	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)	
A	PENDSE N: "OLAP Omnipr BYTE, [Online] Februar XP002224235 Retrieved from the Inte <url:http: www.byte.co<br="">7.htm&gt; [retrieved on 26 * the whole document *</url:http:>	ry 1998 (1998-02), ernet: om/art/9802/sec6/art	1-24		
L	The present search report has been d	rawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search  9 December 2002	Examiner Sanandrés Ledesma, J		
MUNICH  CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS  X: particularly relevant if taken alone y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure		T : theory or principle E : earlier patent door after the filing date D : document cited in L : document cited fo	T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons  8: member of the same patent family, corresponding		

### ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 02 00 0870

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

09-12-2002

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5359724	A	25-10-1994	AU CA DE DE EP ES WO	3971593 2136300 69326608 69326608 0635149 2136660 9320512	A1 D1 T2 A1 T3	08-11-1993 14-10-1993 04-11-1999 09-03-2000 25-01-1995 01-12-1999 14-10-1993
US 5933830	Α	03-08-1999	NONE	. mm. gas. 1469 Mill 966 July 1869 Sec. July 1	1904 MARI MARI MARI MARI MARI MARI MARI	AND COST TOOL WERE NEWS YEARY SAME AND THICK WAS
US 6055548	Α	25-04-2000	US	6430584	B1	06-08-2002
EP 0997834	Α	03-05-2000	US EP	6317750 0997834		13-11-2001 03-05-2000

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82